

I. AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 9 without prejudice to renewal.

1. (Previously presented) A polynucleotide present in other than its natural environment encoding a polypeptide that exhibits monoacylglycerol and/or diacylglycerol acyltransferase activity and comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% nucleotide sequence identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:03.

2. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said encoded polypeptide exhibits diacylglycerol acyltransferase activity.

3.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) An expression cassette comprising a transcriptional initiation region functional in an expression host, a polynucleotide according to claim 1 under the transcriptional regulation of said transcriptional initiation region, and a transcriptional termination region functional in said expression host.

8. (Original) A cell comprising an expression cassette according to claim 7 as part of an extrachromosomal element or integrated into the genome of a host cell as a result of introduction of said expression cassette into said host cell.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A method of producing a polypeptide that exhibits monoacylglycerol and/or diacylglycerol acyltransferase activity, said method comprising:
growing a cell according to claim 8, whereby said polypeptide is expressed; and
isolating said polypeptide substantially free of other proteins.

11.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said encoded polypeptide exhibits monoacylglycerol acyltransferase activity and diacylglycerol acyltransferase activity.

26. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said encoded polypeptide has a length of from about 300 amino acids to about 500 amino acids.

27. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said encoded polypeptide has at least about 98% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:04.